equipment to Government during the last three years as under:—

Year	Total value of defence equipment sold to Government
1993-94	Rs. 1,712.94 cr
1994-95	Rs. 2,634.62 cr
1995-96	Rs. 2,501.13 cr

These supplies were directly made against indents of the Government. No agents were involved.

Projects Regarding Upgradation of Defence Production Units

465. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the ongoing major projects/projects under consideration under Defence production and the present status thereof;

(b) whether Government have decided on the diversification of existing defence production units in line of changing priorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof, project-wise with special reference to projects in Maharashtra;

(d) the details of joint venture projects under consideration for defence production, project-wise and performance of joint venture projects; and

(e) the details of major technological upgradation sought in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Details are furnished in statement attached (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Defence Production Units resort to diversification in the normal course to utilise spare capacities and skills after fully meeting the requirements of defence forces. This is with a view to improve turnover and productivity and therefore reduction in cost of stores supplied to defence forces.

(d) and (e) No joint venture project for defence production is under consideration. However Bharat Electronics Limited has a joint venture with Delft Instruments, Holland for manufacture of second generation image intensifier tubes. Commercial production has commenced. In 1995-96 there has been a turnover of Rs. 14.34 Cr. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited have set up a joint venture with Indo Russian Aviation Limited for sourcing spares and equipment from Russia. It has registered sales of US$ 0.51 million from July to October, 1996. Hindustan Aeronautics' another venture with British Aerospace, UK for computer software has registered sales of Rs. 3.037 Cr and a profit of Rs. 0.153 Crore as per performances ending October 1996.

Statement

The on-going major projects under Defence Production are as follows:

Ordnance Factories:

(a) New filling factory being set up at Badmal in Bolangir district for filling of high calibre ammunition. Project is likely to be commissioned by mid 1997.

(b) 5.56mm ammunition project at Ammunition Factory Kirkee and Ordnance Factory Varangaon. Production already commenced.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

(a) The Advanced Light Helicopter project for the army and its variants for Air Force and Navy. First Batch production has commenced.

(b) Development of MIG-21 BIS update project is awaiting completion. Production likely in 1998-99.

(c) Overhauling of MIG-27 M airframes has commenced and of RD-33 engines likely to start in 1997-98.

2. There is no proposal to set up a new major defence production project.